



**COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION  
NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY BRANCH – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Executive Committee,  
Monday 16 April 2012 at 5pm  
Room 29**

**Present:**

The President, Mr William Hay MLA  
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA  
Dr Alasdair McDonnell MP MLA  
Mr David McClarty MLA  
Mr Jim Wells MLA

**Apologies:**

Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA  
Mr Basil McCrea MLA

**Also In attendance:**

Mr Gareth McGrath, Director of Information & Outreach  
Mr Peter Hall, Head of Outreach & Education (CPA Branch Secretary Designate)  
Mr Robin Ramsey, Adviser to the Speaker  
Ms Nicola Rafferty, Outreach (Minutes)

**1. WELCOME**

The President welcomed Members to the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Mr Basil McCrea and Mr Jimmy Spratt were unable to attend.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes were agreed without amendment.

**4. COMMONWEALTH DAY 2012**

A short DVD of the Commonwealth Day concert was shown to Members and the Speaker stated that it had been a very successful event and that everyone who had attended had enjoyed the acts. The Members who attended agreed that the concert was an excellent way to celebrate Commonwealth day 2012.

The acts that performed will receive DVDs and photos of their performances.

**5. CONFLICT, PEACE & REGENERATION CONFERENCE**

The Speaker asked the Secretary to give an update on the conference.

The Secretary advised Members that the conference had been postponed indefinitely due to low interest.

The Secretary stated that the Deputy Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament still wanted to come to Northern Ireland and advised that a bespoke programme would be arranged for the visit. Jim Wells stated that he would be happy to be involved with the visit as part of the All Party Group for International Development.

**6. KOSOVO**

The Speaker stated that his visit to the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo had been very worthwhile. During the visit the delegation from the NI Assembly had meetings with senior VIPs such as the president and Mayors. The Speaker also stated that there are many groups from Northern Ireland working in Kosovo already to help rebuild the country.

The Speaker advised Members that the Kosovans want to hear about Northern Ireland's experience in peace building and are very keen to establish a democratic process with the necessary checks and balances.

The Speaker stated that a delegation from Kosovo will be visiting Northern Ireland in June.

David McClarty, who accompanied the Speaker on the visit, endorsed the Speaker's comments and highlighted that Kosovo and Northern Ireland have much to learn from each other.

**7. SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The Speaker asked the Secretary to update Members on the last meeting of the Selection committee.

The Secretary advised Members that the Members of the Selection Committee had chosen David McClarty to accompany the Speaker to Kosovo and had decided not to send a representative to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar in Samoa due to high costs.

The Secretary also advised Members that the Selection Committee would be meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April where Members would discuss the four applications received from Members to attend the BIMR conference in Edinburgh in June.

David McClarty proposed that the quorum for the Selection Committee should be reduced from the Speaker and three members to the Speaker and two members. Jim Wells seconded the proposal. The Speaker stated the proposal had been passed and would take immediate effect.

**9. INWARD VISITS**

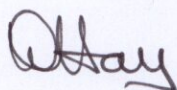
The Secretary advised Members that there had been 13 inward visits to the Assembly in March. He gave the Members a synopsis of the visit by the Canada –UK Inter-parliamentary Association and stated that he had received very positive feedback from the Canadian politicians. David McClarty thanked the Secretary for giving up his free time to accompany the delegation.

**10. AOB**

No other business.

**11. Date of the next meeting**

The next will be held on 28 May 2012 in Room 29.



**WILLIAM HAY MLA  
PRESIDENT**